



## Spiritual Warfare | Ethan Matott | 8.31.25

### Weekly Study

#### SHARE

Welcome to the final week of our series, “Can We Talk?” This series has been all about prayer, bringing encouragement and equipping us to lean into our prayer life, because there is a bold connection we can experience when we are closely tethered to God.

This weekend, we stepped into a clear and practical conversation on spiritual warfare. Scripture teaches that followers of Jesus live in a real, though often unseen, conflict. Yet we fight from the victory Jesus has already won. The goal of Ethan’s message is not to create fear, but to grow discernment, anchor our confidence in Christ, and learn how to stand firm without losing our peace. Ethan highlights what the Bible says about the battle, the armor God provides, and how to resist the enemy with humility, prayer, and unity.

- ☐ **What experiences have shaped how you think about spiritual warfare, and what do you hope to learn from this weekend's message that will be solidified in your life?**
- ☐ **Where in your life do you most need peace and clarity right now, and why?**

#### GROW

##### Read Ephesians 6:10-18

- ☐ **How does this passage connect to the message and reframe the way you see your everyday struggles?**

Paul does not begin with techniques but with a place to stand: “**be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power**” **Ephesians 6:10**. The armor is God’s own provision, not our self effort. The belt and breastplate picture integrity and righteousness that guard the core of who we are. Shoes of the Gospel prepare us to move with steadiness and readiness. Faith functions like a shield that extinguishes accusations and lies by trusting what God has said is truer than what we may feel.

- ☐ **What lie or accusation do you wrestle with most, and how could faith in what God says battle against it?**

The helmet of salvation protects your mind with the finished work of Jesus, and the sword of the Spirit is the word of God that answers deception with truth. This is more than memory verses; it is training your reflexes to agree with Scripture under pressure. The passage also assumes community. Armor language is plural. Roman shields locked together. We stand firmer together than we ever could alone.

- ☐ **How as a group can you begin to find rhythms together to fight for one another more than you have?**

Paul ends with prayer *“on all occasions”* because the battle is relational before it is tactical. Prayer keeps you close to the Commander, sensitive to His voice, and humble rather than combative. The enemy brings in isolation, hurry, and lies. The Spirit forms connection, patience, and conviction. Spiritual warfare is not a special ministry for a few but the normal lifestyle of a church that trusts in Jesus and walks in the light.

- ☐ **How can your prayer life become more combative and constant so that you remain aware and responsive?**

## MOVE

### Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- ☐ **What patterns of thinking feel most like a stronghold for you, and what would freedom look like?**

We do not wage war as the world does. Paul describes divine power that demolishes arguments and pretensions that set themselves up against the knowledge of God. Freedom often begins by naming the thought, holding it up to the light of Scripture, and then submitting it to Jesus. This is not denial. It is discernment. You can tell the truth about pain while refusing the lie that God has abandoned you. We are called to *“take every thought captive to obey Christ.”*

- ☐ **How would you describe the difference between self talk and Spirit led truth talk in your week?**

James 4:7 says, *“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”*. Notice the order. Surrender is not passivity. It is alignment that gives resistance authority. Many of us try to resist while still agreeing with fear, bitterness, or pride. Repentance breaks agreement. Worship redirects attention. Community brings accountability. Together they starve what the enemy feeds

on.

- ☐ **What daily practice helps or may begin to help you re align your heart with God before you engage the pressures of the day?**

Peter urges sobriety and alertness because our adversary prowls, yet we resist him “**standing firm in the faith**” (1 Peter 5:8-10) and knowing that suffering is shared and temporary. Because perspective matters. You are not alone, and this is not forever. God himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. Courage grows when you remember both truths at the same time.

- ☐ **How could remembering that you are part of a global family on mission change how you respond to opposition this week?**

## P R A Y

As a group, come together to pray boldly, with confidence knowing who your Heavenly Father is. Ask Him to guide your steps, quiet the distractions, and open your hearts to His voice. Invite the Holy Spirit to bring clarity where there is confusion, strength where there is pressure, and joy as you intentionally follow Jesus. Consider pairing up for a few minutes, then praying together as a whole group, listening and responding to what God highlights through Scripture and gentle promptings.